Extracts.

The many deficiencies exhibited to our view by the answers to the Queries, has painfully affected the minds of many in the present gathering. The subject of the due attendance of our religious meetings, has been one which has claimed the solid and weighty attention of many exercised minds, as involving a duty highly important to us all: on this account, much has been expressed, and we have been feelingly admonished to press through the many hindering things which often occur in domestic life, and to view a failure in this incumbent duty, as an inlet to various other deficiencies.

An increased attention to the daily perusal of the Holy Scriptures in our families, has also been solemnly recommended to us, as being a practice from which solid benefit may be derived; and we most fairly believe, that where this practice prevails — where the mind is concerned to draw from this source renewed supplies of strength and sustenance, an increasing concern will be felt, to discharge with uprightness and Christian propriety, our several duties, both social, and religious.

Our dear Young Sisters have been tenderly counselled to avoid such reading as has a tendency to corrupt the taste — vitiate the mind, and darken the understanding: the perusal of Novels, and other publications equally pernicious, which are so abundant in the present day, we conceive to be a practice calculated to lessen a relish for the Holy Scriptures, and other solid writings, by which means, the perception becomes weakened, if not deadened, to those things which are of eternal importance and duration: under this belief, we would again earnestly recommend to our beloved young friends to conscientiously shun those publications, which tho' glossed over with a specious surface, contain in them a poison calculated to destroy the precious life.

We have been affectionately advised to cultivate the love of retirement, and believing as we do, that this counsel was given in the language of experience, and under the precious influence of Gospel Love, we sincerely desire it may have its due place in our minds, and we become increasingly engaged to avail ourselves of this means of obtaining a renewal of strength. In our tents we are safe; out of it, we are more or less exposed to the "arrows of the archers", which from various directions are pointed at the young — the unwary and the unwatchful.

A lively concern has been manifested that Friends may consider the necessity of dwelling in the life, ~~that is~~ and seek for renewed supplies of that "grace" which is declared to be "sufficient" for us; that so, our sacrifices may be acceptable, and our offerings pure, free from those spots and blemishes which attach to them, when through unfaithfulness, and a want of dedication, we relax ~~in~~ from that diligence, by which the heart is kept alive in Him, who alone should rule, and reign therein.

As the subject of inspecting the necessities of the Poor, has passed

in review before us, a tender solicitude has been felt, that this interesting portion of the family might be regarded with sympathy — their circumstances investigated, and their necessities relieved in a proper, judicious manner.

In relation to the use of spirituous liquors, we have been solemnly warned to avoid the use of it on all occasions, even as a medicine unless strictly necessary; believing that it has in this way proved a dangerous snare; that its effects, like that of opiates, is to disqualify the mind from entering into a proper examination of our spiritual state; the knowledge of which, would lead us to ask Wisdom of Him, who "giveth liberally, and upbraideth not; and who will reward the rightly exercised, with an increase of strength to withstand temptation: — thus shall we be enabled to keep our habitations in the Truth — to preserve our testimony in this respect; and by precept & undued efficacious by example, encourage others in removing this great evil out of our borders.

While thus assembled in a Yearly Meeting Capacity, we have desired that every part of the family might participate in the exercise which has been spread amongst us, that our daily walks, should be so circumspect, and we should so dwell under the government of the law of life, as that ~~the~~ we might go in, and out with acceptance in the divine sight; and by the forcible language of example, induce the dear Children, to love the narrow way that leadeth to life. . We believe that a solemn pause at meals is often blessed to ourselves, and leads the young and tender mind to feelings of reverential gratitude to the Giver of all good; produces at seasons, a desire to number our blessings; and to impart to the needy, a share of those supplies which we have received from the bountious hand of our Heavenly Father.

We have at this time, as heretofore, felt it a duty to recommend to our dear Sisters, to be explicit in answering the Queries, in their respective Meetings; to answer Specifically, the several parts of each of each of them; and to avoid the method of generalizing, which sometimes misleads, and often prevents that full understanding of the State of Meetings which is so desirable.

Extracted from the Minutes of New-England Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Newport, on Rhode-Island, by adjournments from the 13th to the 14th of 6th Month — 1831. and signed on behalf, and by direction thereof.

Ruth Coleman — Clerk.

Dartmouth Monthly Meeting.

4 At Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Nantucket 4th of 7th mo 1850.

The committee appointed to extend such care & labour as appeared necessary in relation to Westport Monthly Meeting, have produced the following report ——. By which it appears that it is the request of that meeting that it should be dissolved and the Friends composing it (as members thereof) united to Dartmouth Monthly meeting, the same desire being also expressed in their account received at this time, which being in accordance with the judgment of the committee & united with by Dartmouth Monthly meeting. After a time of weighty deliberation and much expression thereon, it is the sense & judgment of this meeting that Westport Monthly meeting be dissolved at its next sitting and the members thereof united to Dartmouth Monthly Meeting, and that the united meeting take place at Dartmouth on the fourth fourth day in the present month; the time in which that meeting is usually held, with which the women's meeting unites, and Job Eddy, Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, Christopher C Hussey, and George M Eddy are appointed to unite with a committee from the women's meeting should they appoint one, to attend the ensuing monthly meetings of Westport and Dartmouth with a copy of this minute; to render them such assistance as may be necessary and they are requested to see that all

the books and papers are forwarded to and all unfinished business if any there be transfered to Dartmouth monthly meeting

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting aforesaid and signed on its behalf

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

Copy of Minute of Committee to attend Dartmouth & Westport monthly meeting

A Copy of some expressions delivered in Phila: Yearly Meeting during it session 1850. By S. Cope-

"The foundation of God standeth sure having this seal The Lord knoweth them that are his." I have never felt a stronger necessity laid upon me to speak, than upon the present occasion; and I must say, that my mind has been bowed down and burdened through the various sittings of this Yearly Meeting, under a painful sense of the low state of things among us. And this remark applies both to individuals and to meeting: and I have borne it, until I can bear it no longer in silence. Whilst thinking of these things, I have remembered the remarkable account which is left us concerning Mordecai the Jew, who sat at the king's gate. It is recorded of this humble and watchful servant of the king, that he discovered the wicked conspiracy of Bigthan and Teresh against their Lord and master, and was thus made instrumental in saving the king's life: and although for a time his important services seemed to be overlooked and forgotten, yet, they were recorded in a book of remembrance and laid up before the king.

This same Mordecai, although he could set in deep humility at the king's gate, yet he would not bow down to proud Haman; who was therefore so full of wrath, that he determined to destroy not Mordecai only, but all the people of Mordecai who should be found in the king's dominions. For this purpose he caused a decree to be sent forth, and sealed it with the king's ring, that all the Jews within the kingdom should be put to the sword; vainly imagining that he could thus root out and destroy all the servants of the living God But at a very critical juncture, when it seemed to all human and outward apprehension, that the destruction of the poor feeble Jews was

inevitable, the king was troubled, and commanded that the book of the Chronicles of his kingdom should be read before him; and it was found written therein that Mordecai had done what he could for the kings cause. You may read in the Bible the sad history of those who had any thing to do with the wicked conspiracy which was waged, not against one faithful individual only, but against all the people of God; and you will there learn the awful consequences, and dreadful judgements which overtook those, who had thus wickedly conspired against the Lords people. The application which I feel myself now constrained to make of the history thereof is this; John Wilbur is this modern Mordecai; who whilst humbly awaiting and watching at the kings gate, was enabled to detect a conspiracy which some of the Lords professed servants had entered into against the doctrines and testimonies and inward appearances of their Lord and King. And he was not only enabled to detect this conspiracy but was faithful in exposing it, and he was strengthened to bear a clear and faithful testimony respecting it in his Master's name. A record of his honest and faithful services has been written in the Lords book of remembrance; and it was because of his unflinching integrity and faithfulness therein; and because he could not be brought to bow down at the will of those who were banded together for the purpose of changing the doctrines and principles of our religious Society, that a decree has gone forth against John Wilbur and his faithful and suffering Friends in New England to root them out of the Lords heritage.

And mind friends, this decree was sealed over by what purports to be the kings own ring, and bears all the outward appearance of having been done in accordance with the rules of discipline, and under right

authority. And it has also been sent forth and hastened into all parts of our Society for the purpose of uniting all together against those persecuted and faithful ones. And there are those in our Yearly Meeting who profess to love those sufferers, and who think they are clear of their brother's blood, when in the language of conduct they are saying, let not our hands be upon them, but let us leave them to perish in that pit, into which like Joseph their persecuting brethren have cast them.

Dear Friends, such is the conspiracy which has been entered into against some of the Lord's most faithful people: but all consulting and contriving in the will and wisdom of the creature will be rebuked to the confusion of its authors, yea persuaded I am, that it will result in the downfall of those who think to overturn the doctrines and principles of our religious society. We ought surely to have read the minute from our suffering friends in New England; we were bound to do it by the common courtesies of life, by the usages of our religious society, by sympathy for our friends, by our love for the Truth, and by faithfulness to the cause of our Lord and Master. I have thus endeavoured to clear my skirts of this evil work; and I must say, that because I am fully convinced, that the Lord owns John Wilbur, I own him too; and I also own his and our suffering friends in New England as brethren in the fellowship of the Gospel.

And this is the testimony which I have felt bound to bear publicly this day: and I could not permit this meeting to separate without making an effort to relieve my tried and burdened mind of some part of that painful load, which has rested upon it. And having done so, I am strengthened with a renewal of belief, that "the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal the Lord knoweth them that are his"

Expressions of S. Cope
in Phila Yearly Meeting
1850

The [illegible] was accompanied to attend the funeral
by many persons who [illegible] and on motion it was
[illegible] granted the liberty asked for by the meeting
to change the place of holding our Quarterly Meetings which
were heretofore held at Pittsfield on 1st and 4th mos. &
New Salem and the Clerk is directed to transmit a copy
of this minute to the Mo Mtg

Adjourned to meet in minutes of the meeting allowed
by Discipline for the day

At a monthly Meeting of Woman Friends held in Dartmouth 27th of 5th Mo 1845 accounts received from our preparative Meetings the representatives therein named are from the South Mary Davis and Hannah H Shearman from the North Sylvia R Wilbur and Deborah Handy whose names being called are all present except one

Men Friends inform that as there are present some who are not members of our Society it was concluded to retire to some part of the yard that business of this meeting may be conducted to in select to our members according to discipline

Women Friends met with Men Friends in adjourning this Meeting to meet in some part of the yard

Met agreeable to adjournment in the yard

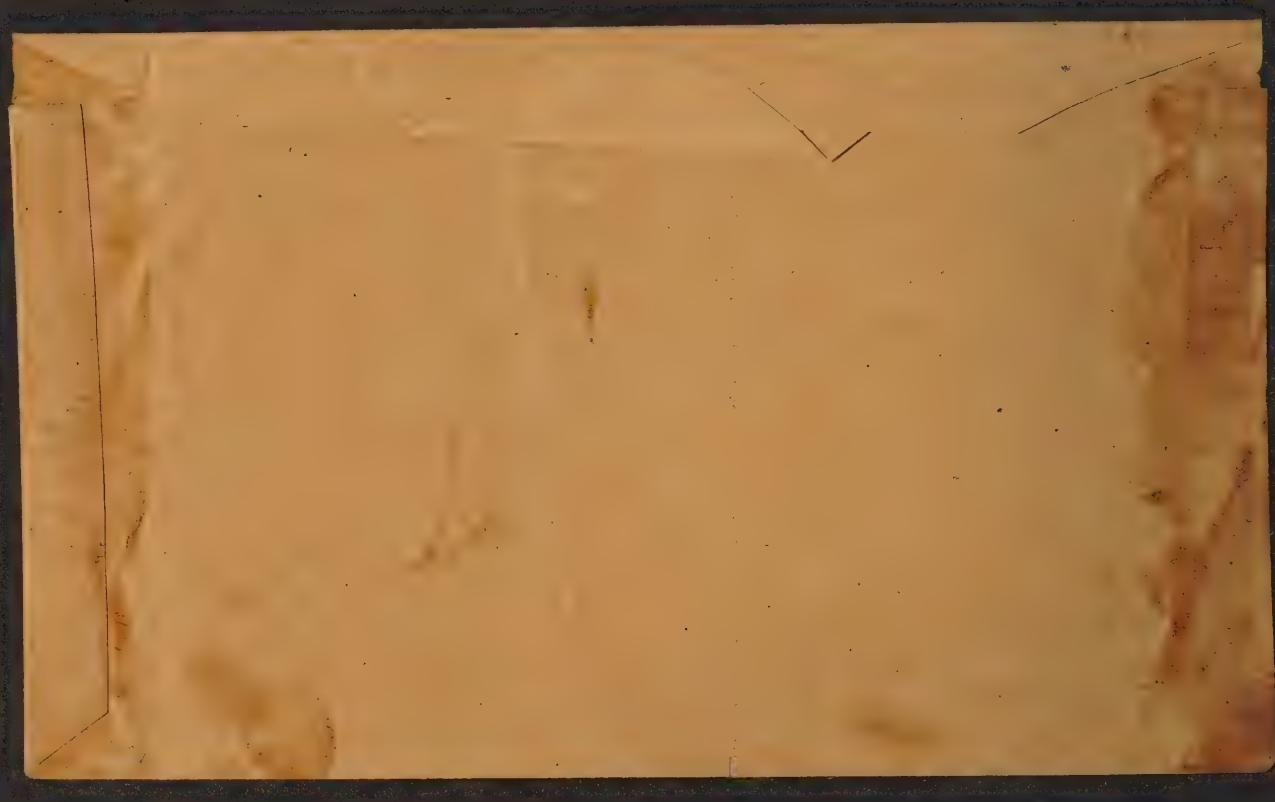
1845

The subject of appointing a Clerk and assistant Clerk coming before this Meeting we have therefore united to propose Alice Wilbur for Clerk and Hannah H Shearman for assistant Clerk which being united with by this meeting they are therefore appointed to that service for the ensuing year or until others shall be appointed

on account of the individual heretofore acting as Clerk of this Meeting having ~~acknowledged~~ herself among those who have Seperated themselves from the Society of Friends and who deny Some of the prominant and fundimental doctrins ever Entertained in and held by the Society from its first establishment down to the present time, and are holding forth and endeavering to establish those that are Contrary to and Subversive of those doctrins, with which friends Can have no unity, Friends Conseal therefore any Longer acknowledge of Mary Gifford as Clerk of this Meeting ~~before~~ the name being proposed for Clerk which is united with by the Meeting She is accordingly appointed to that Service for the day or until another appointment

At a South Preparative Meeting of Women friends held in Dartmouth 8th mo 20 1845 Hannah Davis Jnr

Select Quarterly Meeting



[illegible] Dunderry [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] annexed [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Dear friends. We forward the annexed answers to the queries
which we thought to nearly describe our present state by our friends
Mary Miller and Alice Wilbur, whom we have appointed as our
Representatives Signed on behalf of a meeting for ministers and
elders held at Portland the 23rd of 3rd mo 1797

1st Friends are careful to attend our meetings for Divine worship when in health, and to
encourage their families to this duty as are suitable.

2nd Friends

3rd Their conversation & our members appear to be in a
manner becoming with another and the meetings they belong to, endeav-

4th ouring to rule our own houses well, and also to bring
up our families in plainness, in dress, language and true modesty
of ourselves.

5th Endeavour to be peace-makers in families and in the
Church, and to maintain the life
our families

To Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of Friends to be held in [illegible] 1st mo.

Dear Friends, by our representatives, Wm. H. Levick, [illegible]

Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 23rd of 4th mo 1856

Wm. H. Wilson Clerk

1st All our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been held except one for worship, the week of the yearly Meeting and attended by the most of Friends generally when able. The hour nearly observed some appearance of steer at times. No disorderly unbecoming behaviour noticed.

2nd Love and unity are maintained by nearly all as far as appears, and detraction is guarded against. When differences have arisen some care has been taken.

3rd [illegible]

To Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders next to be held at New Bedford.

Dear Friends — We forward the annexed answers to the queries which we thought best describe the present state of our meeting to our friends. Thos K. Wilbur, Mary Ann Sabin and Alice Hillman whom we have appointed our representatives

Signed on behalf of a meeting for Ministers and Elders held at New Bedford 18th of 3rd mo 1864. Thos K. Wilbur Clerk.

1mo 1st We are careful to attend our meetings for Divine worship and to have our families with us, and also those [illegible] for such of our families to this duty as are suitable

2nd Friends continue to visit the several parts of this meeting.

3rd The lives and conversation of our members appear to be in a good degree clean and blameless amongst men, they are in unity one with another and the meetings they belong to, endeavouring to harmonize in favour for the honor of Truth.

4th We endeavour to rule our own houses well, and also to bring up our families in plainness, in dress, behaviour and true moderation, and to be exemplary ourselves.

5th We have a concern to be peace makers in families and in the Church, and also to maintain the discipline, in reproving our own families for sin and to administer justice as with our servants.

To Sandwich Quarterly Meeting for Ministers and Elders.

Dear Friends. We forward the anexed answers to the queries which are thought to describe the present state of our meeting, by our friends, Stephen Swift and Alice Wilbur, whom we have appointed our representatives.

Signed on behalf of a Meeting for Ministers and Elders held the 18th of 11mo 1864.

Thos K. Wilbur Clerk.

Ans 1st We are careful to attend our meetings for Divine ~~service~~ worship, and to take our families with us, and also those for discipline, encouraging such of our families to this duty as are suitable.

2nd Friends continue to be careful as to the several parts of this query.

3rd The lives and conversation of our members appear to be in a good degree clean and blameless amongst men, they are in unity one with another and the meetings they belong to, endeavouring to harmonize in labour for the honour of Truth.

4th We endeavour to rule our own houses well, and also to bring up our families in plainness, in dress, language and true moderation, and to be exemplary ourselves.

5th We endeavour to be peace-makers in families and in the Church, and also to maintain the discipline, not screening our own families therefrom, and to administer justice.

Select Account

11th mo 1864

1864

To Sandwich Quarterly Meeting for Ministers and Elders next to be held in Dartmouth

Dear Friends. We forward the answers to the queries which are thought nearly to describe the present state of our meeting by our friends Thomas K. Wilbur and Alice Wilbur whom we have appointed our representatives.

Signed on behalf of a meeting for Ministers and Elders held 17th of 10th Mo 1871. Thos K. Wilbur Clerk

1st. We are careful to attend our meetings for Divine worship when in suitable health, and to have our families with us, and also those for discipline, encouraging such of our families to this duty as are suitable.

2nd. There are none in the station of Ministers amongst us.

3rd. The lives and conversation of our members appear to be in a good measure clean and blameless amongst us, they are in unity one with another and the meetings they belong to, they endeavour to harmonize in labouring for the honour of Truth.

4th. We endeavour to rule our own houses well, and also to bring up our families in plainness, in dress, language and true moderation and to be exemplary ourselves.

5th. We endeavour to be peacemakers in families and in the Church, and also to maintain the discipline, not screening our own families therefrom, and to administer justice.

Select account

1871